

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 15284 231327Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 15284

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TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO UNGA: MEETING WITH THAI
FOREIGN MINISTER

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. STATE 202965; B. STATE 206640 C. STATE 208885

1. BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, WE EXPECT THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO COVER MORE OR LESS THE SAME GROUND IN HIS TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 30 IN NEW YORK THAT AMBASSADOR ANAN DID ON SEPTEMBER 12. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD SPECIFICALLY THAT HE WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:
A) FUTURE U.S.-THAI RELATIONS: THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL ASSURE THE SECRETARY THAT, ALTHOUGH THAILAND (LIKE THE U.S.) IS SEEKING TO BROADEN THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, THAILAND WANTS TO PRESERVE THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDSHIP IT HAS ENJOYED WITH THE U.S. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL SEEK IN TURN SIMILAR ASSURANCE FROM THE SECRETARY THAT THE U.S. LIKewise CONTINUES TO PLACE HIGH PRIORITY ON ITS RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. CHARUNPHAN HOPES FOR A FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE CONVERSATION TO INCLUDE SUCH MATTERS AS THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENT TO THAILAND AS SEEN FROM WASHINGTON, THE FUTURE OF SEATO, AND WHAT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 15284 231327Z

U.S. WOULD LIKE IN TERMS OF ITS FUTURE MILITARY PRESENCE

IN THAILAND;

B) THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL EXPRESS THE VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE THAI OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PRESENCE IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA, AND EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUING AGGRESSION IN SOUTH VIETNAM BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. HE WILL SEEK TO CLARIFY THE INTENT AND WILL OF THE U.S. TO DETER THE NORTH VIETNAMESE;

C) ASSISTANCE: THE FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE A LENGTHLY OR STRONG PLEA FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR ANAN'S CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND THE DIRE PICTURE THAT HAD BEEN DRAWN FOR HIM WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR THAILAND. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HOPES THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS, DURING HIS VISIT HERE ON OCTOBER 1, WILL DISCUSS THE SUBJECT IN DETAIL WITH THE THAI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE, THE THAI CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THEIR EMPHASIS ON GREATER ACCEDS TO U.S. MARKETS AND BETTER TREATMENT BY THE U.S. IN THIS FIELD. WITH REFERENCE TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ITSELF, THE FOREIGN MINISTER MAY MENTION THE RTG'S DESIRE TO REVISE OR AMEND THE 1950 ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO BRING IT MORE INTO LINE WITH ARRANGEMENTS NOW EXISTING FOR OTHER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL OR TECHNICIANS;

D) P-3 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN: THE FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE SUBJECT OF P-3 FLIGHTS BUT WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE RTG DECISION TO BAN THEM IF THE QUESTION IS RAISED BY THE SECRETARY. THE LINE TAKEN BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO DATE IS THAT IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE RTG'S ADHERENCE TO THE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE, AS WELL AS THE TERMS UNDER WHICH U.S. FORCES WERE ADMITTED TO THAILAND, FOR THAILAND TO PERMIT U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM THAILAND;

E) CIVIL AVIATION BILATERAL: THE FOREIGN MINISTER MAY RAISE THE ISSUE OF RENOGIATION OF THE U.S.-THAI CIVIL AVIATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 15284 231327Z

BILATERAL AGREEMENT. HE WILL ASK THAT THAILAND BE GIVEN BROADER RIGHTS TO AND FROM THE U.S. AND IN THE PACIFIC;

F) THE THAI POLITICAL SCENE: THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL PROBABLY DESCRIBE EFFORTS BY THAILAND TO IMPLEMENT CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. IN RELATION TO THIS, HE WILL COMMENT ON THE NEED TO ADJUST THE SIZE OF OUR FORCES AND TO REGULARIZE THE MANNER IN WHICH WE DO BUSINESS SO

AS TO MAKE ANY U.S. PRESENCE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE THAI PUBLIC.

2. THE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER:

A) THAI-U.S. RELATIONS: THE U.S. CONTINUES TO PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAILAND, AND BELIEVES IT IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO CONTINUE TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OUR LONG EFFORTS TO BRING A SECURE AND JUST PEACE TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE SECRETARY ALSO MAY WISH TO REITERATE THE ASSURANCES HE GAVE TO AMBASSADOR ANAN THAT WE WILL CONSULT FULLY WITH THE THAI ON INDOCHINA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA;

B) ASSISTANCE: THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO DEFEND BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS A CONTINUING AID PROGRAM TO THAILAND AT ABOUT CURRENT LEVELS, AND WITHIN OUR LIMITED RESOURCES WILL BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THAI REQUESTS;

C) ADJUSTMENT OF ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT: WE AGREE THAT THERE NEED TO BE ADJUSTMENTS IN OUR 1950 BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT RATHER THAN WRITING A NEW ONE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SCRUTINY BY THE CONGRESS. THE MISSION IN THAILAND IS ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT ADJUSTMENTS IN OPERATING PRACTICES IN AGREEMENT WITH THE RTG;

D) CIVIL AVIATION: WE APPRECIATE THE THAI POSITION AND WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET THAI NEEDS;

E) P-3 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS: ASSURE THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WE CONTINUE TO RESPECT THE THAI REQUEST THAT WE NOT FLY MARITIME PATROL FLIGHTS OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM UTAPAO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BANGKO 15284 231327Z

WITHOUT FORMAL THAI APPROVAL. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE RTG REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM OF SOVIET PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL RESULT IN APPROVAL FOR RESUMPTION OF RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS;

F) SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT: THE UNITED STATES FULLY SUPPORTS THAI EFFORTS TOWARD CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.
KINTNER

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